CHERAW GAZETTE.

M. MACLEAN EDITOR & PROPRIETOR. CHERAW, S. C., TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1836. VOL. I. NO. 31.

Published every Tuesday.

TERMS.

If paid within three months, - - - - 3. 00
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PARENT'S DEPARTMENT.

From the Mother's Magazine.

THE INCONSISTENT AND PARTIAL YOUNG MOTHER.

I had scarcely seated myself in the house of my friend, before her little Julia announced to me what was *to her* the welcome news, that her uncle and aunt G. were coming to see them, and would bring her little cousin. I soon learned that this was a fact talked of by more than the juvenile members of the family. Preparations were making by every one to accommodate this little stranger in its *first visit.* But none were so abundant in their expressions of anticipated joy, as the little one who communicated the intelligence to me. She seemed scarcely to forget it the livelong day. She was constantly telling of the kindness of her uncle and aunt to her, and seemed to feel as 'though the little stranger would partake of their affectionate regards, and they should immediately become friends. Her judicious mother seemed filled with apprehension as the time approached for their arrival, and on inquiring the cause, she replied, "I am fearful of the influence of this visit upon Julia. You know she has long been the cherished one in our whole family circle, and I am afraid, when she sees a rival in our affections, it will make her unhappy. Besides, you know sister Mary is a great favorite among us, and *perhaps* there is some danger that we shall neglect Julia too much. This would prove to her a lasting injury; but as I am her mother, I must be still and abide the consequences whatever they may be."

Soon after this conversation, the carriage, which bore this new treasure to the expectant hearts of its grand parents, was hailed with acclamations of joy. The little waiting Julia was the first to meet them; and "Uncle have you brought your baby?" was the first salutation. "Hush! hush! you will wake it," was the cold response of the uncle, and the child stepped back, seemingly to wait the affectionate embrace she was wont to meet. She again ventured forward, and said in a low tone, "Aunt Mary, may I see your baby?"—"No, child, she is asleep, and you must not look at her or make a noise." The child looked unutterable things, but *sat down* seemingly resolved to wait for the babe to wake, as a reward for this coldness. Soon, however, she forgot the injunction, and knocking her little chair about, awoke the baby. Then she was met with a severe reproof, and the long-wished for treasure was brought forth. I now expected to see the injured feelings of the little one healed, by a suitable and kind introduction to her cousin, but no: and as she caught hold of the frock to try to get a sight of it, she was pushed away with, "You was a naughty girl to make a noise; now you must wait until she is pleasant." She did not yet seem to understand that she had a rival in their affections, and went fondling about her uncle in all the playfulness of childhood; but he soon pushed her away with a reproof for being so boisterous, and she silently went into her mother's room, and, at the request of her aunt, was put to bed, that her noise might not disturb the baby.

The next morning she seemed to have forgotten all her sad repulses, and very cheerfully consented to leave her seat at the table to watch the baby during breakfast. Uncle and aunt both gave her a list of charges, and ventured to leave the room. For a while all was quiet, and I began to hope that things would go on, as I thought right. Very soon, however, the child cried, and when the mother went to it, Julia had raised her a little to try to pacify her. "You naughty girl," said the aunt, "I told you not to *touch* the baby: now you may go out, and I shall not leave her with you again." Julia was not habituated to being called naughty, and had heard the term applied to those only who had exceedingly erred. She looked as though her little heart had received a deep wound: but her grandmother's room had always been a sanctuary for her, and as she was not easily to be driven from it, she returned immediately after eating her breakfast. As soon as she entered the room, her aunt rehearsed to her uncle a history of her naughty deeds, and after a severe reproof from both, she was sent out of the room, with an assurance that their child should never be allowed to be so disobedient and selfish. Julia, as would be expected, was peevish and impatient through the day, and the poor mother heard many good maxims, from the newly inaugurated parents, on the importance of training up children in the way they should go. I soon saw a very unhappy effect on the child. Sometimes, she was called to rock the baby, and scolded if she was not willing; then, if she went and offered to play with the child, she was refused; and, whenever she was noisy, was sent into her mother's room to study. If she never could tend the baby when she wished, of course, she would not be willing to do so when others wished. The aunt called her stubborn and selfish, and the child, unused to such treatment, was disobedient and sullen. She soon learned that her study was given her for a punishment, or, what is as acceptable to a child, to keep her still, and she would not get her lessons. Of course, no failing escaped the notice of the newly made critics, and many times a day did the mother hear such expressions as these, "I always knew *that* child would be spoiled."—"I would *make* a child study."—"Let me have the management of that child awhile, and I guess she'd get her lessons." Julia had always been a plaything for her grand parents, and her mother had not only permitted, but encouraged her to amuse their lonely hours. It could not be expected that her childish frolics would exhibit much refinement, especially as she had been in the habit of occupying any part of the house she wished, to hide from her grandfather, and when she was found, the whole house would echo with joy. These innocent frolics were a great annoyance to the new parents. "O," they would often say, "Our child shall never act so."—"Did you ever hear so noisy a child."—"What is its mother thinking of that she does not correct it?"—"It seems as though she thought there was no one in the house but herself."—"Our child shall never be allowed in such selfish habits." Poor creatures, thought I, what will hinder your child from being supremely selfish. If we went to take an airing, the convenience of the whole house must be sacrificed to an hour that would best accommodate the babe. Then that seat must be reserved for the mother which would best suit the child; and, in short, from the servants in the kitchen, to the patriarch of the household, all must be in subjection to the will of this child. If it slept, no one must do any thing to wake it; if its hour had not come to eat, it must not be nursed, if the whole house was kept in a turmoil by its cries. I looked silently on to see if even the doating parents could be so blind, as to think that their cherished daughter was right in all her measures; and when I heard her refuse to let her judicious mother prepare little comforts for the child, and appeal to a book she had in consultation, before receiving any of her prescriptions, I wondered at their forbearance. "I shall not give that to the child, if you prepare it," said she one day to her mother, who was straining a little herb tea to try to soothe it. "Mrs. D. says, such and such things are not good for children." "And who is Mrs. D.," asked her father. "O, one of the best managers of children in the world. She is certainly the best mother I ever knew, and I would follow her rules before any other in the world." "How many children has she reared?" asked he. "Why," replied she, hesitating a little, "she has but two, and they are small, but *she knows how* children ought to be managed. If the present generation had been nursed by such mothers as Mrs. D., they would be a different race from what they are now." I looked toward the mother, who had fitted her large family of children for stations of usefulness, and I thought I could see in her countenance an index of deeply injured feeling, though not a word was said, nor even her eye raised.

But to return to Julia. Her mother had endeavored to govern her by reason, and by explaining to her the impropriety of this and that measure, as well as by the rod. She soon seemed to see an inconsistency between her mother's rules and her aunt's precepts. "*You* say, mamma, that children must do just as older persons wish to have them; when is the time to begin *not* to let them have what they wish? Aunt Mary always tells me to let her baby have all she wishes for, and when I was going to take away that beautiful book Mr. M. gave me, she would not let me, and said I should always let little children have what they wanted." But time would fail me to recount what I saw and heard, during my stay in this family. Every day brought some new trail of Julia's temper and disposition; and I have known whole days pass without a word being spoken to Julia, either by her uncle or aunt, except to reproach her, or to call her to wait upon the baby. Not one inquiry did I hear made of her, respecting her little sports, her studies, &c., &c., and I silently, but ardently, desired that, *for once,* their child might be thus treated before their own eyes.

Owing to sickness in my own family, I was called home before the visiters departed. I left the silent, suffering mother of Julia bathed in tears, and it is my intention to learn not only the sequel of this visit, but other particulars, from time to time, of these two children. A VISITER.

RURAL ECONOMY.

TOPPING CORN.

From the New-England Farmer.

Mr. Fessenden.—Notwithstanding the correct theories advanced by yourself and others, and the numerous experiments, proving conclusively that the practice of "topping Indian Corn" (maize) is injurious yet it is believed that this practice is still continued generally, although discontinued by a large portion of the best farmers in New-England. The practice, if injurious, would, in a short period, cause a loss of property, in the aggregate, amounting perhaps to millions. That the corn plant should ever have been selected for mutilation, in preference to other vegetables, seems to be an extraordinary circumstance. In the whole circle of American husbandry, there is no plant of higher utility and value, or which excites greater curiosity and admiration in respect to its beautiful appearance and organic structure. The physiologist cannot explain how the grass grows, or how this plant springs from a decaying seed into being, and performs all its functions; yet science reveals to us certain facts, as well as the modes in which some of its functions are performed. We know that the Author of nature does nothing in vain, either in the animal or vegetable kingdoms; and that He gave to this plant such peculiar constitution and anatomy, that each part or organ is absolutely necessary to bring it to maturity, or complete its perfection.

The abstraction of any part of it is, therefore, opposed to the wise provisions of nature; and, for obvious reasons, checks its growth. It receives a portion of its food and nourishment from the soil, through the medium of the roots, and their sprays, or minute fibres, extending several feet from the stalk or stem, which at as absorbents. But the vegetable fluid, received from the roots and propelled upwards, undergoes several chemical actions before it enters the cob, and before it is finally converted into that peculiar food which the green ear requires. Air is as essential to its growth as heat, and supplies a portion of its nourishment. Indeed, some plants derive their whole nourishment from the air. The wide corn blades, like the leaves of trees, decompose carbonic acid, retaining the carbon, and emitting the oxygen. The blades are, therefore, in some measure, respiratory, and have some slight analogy to the lungs of animals, which retain only that part of the air called oxygen (the vital part,) to improve the state of the blood and give it its red colour. We may, therefore, safely conclude that the corn-blade is the organ to prepare or elaborate the sap propelled into it from the stem; that from the blade it returns to the pith or pulpy substance of the stalk; that it next enters the cob, after having undergone several stages of improvement; and that before it is finally received into the kernel, it has been "refined and doubly refined," until it constitutes that rich saccharine juice, which is the nutriment of, and gives the sweet flavour to the kernel. We thus perceive the use of the blades, as well as the pith, the latter extending through the whole stalk. This vegetable fluid circulates through the whole length of the stalk, as well as the blades. Whether the sap, after it ascends to the roots into the blades in which it is elaborated, descends to the roots, according to the doctrine which some distinguished physologists hold in respect to trees and perennial plants, we confess we have strong doubts. But that there is some sort of circulation, must be conceded. It is probable that the juice, after it ascends may descend into certain bulbous roots as their tops dry and decay.

Although unable, by actual experiment, to confute the theory, we can conceive of no reason whatever why the sap should descend into the roots of annual or perennial plants. "The circulation of the sap," says a learned writer, "is one of the most obscure, though important processes, in the whole vegetable economy." But the fact that it circulates, or flows or moves through every part of the corn-plant, improving its state, until the final deposit of its richest substance in the kernel, is sufficient to support our main position. If our premises are correct, the conclusion irresistibly follows, that cutting off half the stalk with nearly all the blades, while the plant is green and growing, before the ear comes to maturity, must necessarily check its growth, because a large portion of the organs, essential to complete its perfection, are abstracted. It is disorganized in respect to its natural functions. One source, whence it derives nourishment, is cut off. The sap from the roots can no longer be elaborated by the blades, and afterwards converted into a richer and sweeter substance. The ear consequently shrinks, the kernel shrivels as it dries; and the result is, as has often been demonstrated by accurate experiments that by means of the multilating process, the corn turns out to be not so sweet and palatable for food, less in quantity, and in weight less than there would have been, had nature been permitted, in her own way to bring it to maturity.

Farmers often commence topping the corn so soon as the kernel is glazed over, "begins to turn," while it is "in the milk." This is the period when the ear is in the greatest need of the saccharine juice, when all the parts or organs of the living whole, through which action is evolved, and which reciprocally act and re-act, are developing their energies to produce the desired result, the maturity of the ear. And the several parts or organs of the plant are reciprocally dependent upon each other for the exercise of their respective functions.

Without the top and the farina, which falls from it, the corn would never grow upon the cob. A silky thread grows out of each kernel, and at the precise time when these threads project beyond the husks, when "the corn is in the silk," the farina falls from the top on to the silk, and through the medium of these threads impregnantes each kernel. A miscroscope will disclose a small aperture at the end of the silk. In this manner, it is well known, that two fields of corn of different kinds, standing at considerable distance from each other, will intermix when the wind conveys the farina from one field to the other.

The tops at the wide spreading blades have other uses. They serve as a covering to protect the ear and stem from the too intense heat of a burning sun on the one hand, and cold winds on the other. They also derive nourishment from gentle rains and dews; and their umbrageous foliage, by being a partial obstruction to evaporations, tends to prevent the soil from parching or drying up. A medium temperature is thus, in some measure preserved. The genial influence of the solar light upon the plants (without which they would not grow) is a fact known to all, but is not of easy explanation. This covering affords also a partial protection against the early frosts, to which our Northern climate is subjected. One instance of this I will mention. The last spring I planted about four acres of corn upon a low, argillaceous soil, *late in the season.* The piece was well manured but no manure put in the hill. For a long time the plants appeared less promising than those of my neighbours, who put manure in the hill. But when the roots reached the under-sward, and the nutriment equally diffused, the growth of this piece was remarkably rapid. The plants being thick set, and of uncommon height the tops and blades covered nearly the whole surface. The prospect appeared favourable to a yield of 75 bushels to the acre. While (other farmers had topped their corn [a practice which I have not adopted,) mine was in vigorous growth, only a small portion being out of danger from frost. In that state, two sucessive frosts struck it so severely as to kill the tops and blades. But the ears remained green, and to appearance untouched by frost, and the husks did not adhere to the ear as they do when severely frost bitten. My opinion is, that the *frost* did no greater injury than the *knife* would have done, had the piece been topped at that time; and also that had I topped it previous to the frost, the effects of the frost would have rendered it valueless, except for fodder.

Some farmers top their corn in order to force it to ripen earlier. They remove the covering to let the rays of the sun have greater effect upon the ears. And some believe, that by this process they can turn the whole current of the juice into the ear! In respect to the last point, our preceding remark affords a sufficient answer. Experimental knowledge will convince any one, that the corn will ripen earlier in nature's way, than by adopting the mutilating process. The truth is, that we may safely follow nature, but to change her course and improve her laws, is beyond the capacity of man. The great Author of nature created every plant in the vegetable kingdom, *perfect in its own kind.* It is, therefore, the hight of arrogance and folly to attempt to improve upon what is already perfect. While by the mutilating process, we increase the quantity of solar light shed upon the ear, we at the same time diminish the quantity of heat, the latter being perhaps more necessary to the plant's growth, than more light. In autumn, at the usual time of topping corn, more light falls upon an isolated tree in the open field, than upon any one tree in a thick grove or forest. Yet it is true, that the latter tree has more heat than the former. So in a compact, well shaded corn field, the heat is retained, if not generated, more than it would be by cutting away the umbrageous foliage to let in solar light, thus exposing the denuded stalk to the full force of the cold, searching winds of that season. In the spring season, when the plants are small and tender there is an abundance of light, but such is the low temperature, and their exposure to the winds, that as a natural consequence they often appear feeble and sickly, and slowly increase in size.

We know of no tree or other plant, whose condition would be improved by cutting off its top, or main branches. Should a tree be entirely stripped of its foliage, in midsummer, it would surely decay and probably die. If it bore fruit not fully ripe, the fruit would shrink and never become palatable. Should the min branches be cut off, its growth would be so stinted, that it would not recover until after several years, if at all. In transplanting trees, young, or of many years growth,* modern experiments have proved, that mutilating the tops and the roots, at the same time is very destructive to the tree; because the through which the sap circulates, are organs just as essential as the roots, to the nourishment of the tree.

Another justigcation assigned for the practice of topping corn, is to gain a greater supply of folder for cattle. But the fact is, that the farmer by cutting up his corn at the roots when it has come to maturity, will have a greater quantity of foldes, than he would in thotother mode, and he thereby saves much labour. It is admitted, that the stalks cut green, containing more of the saccharine juice, afford sweeter folder. But if the main object be to raise good corn, that juice should go to nourish the ear.

We could extend our remarks, and adduce other arguments to fortify our main position. But should you deem these cursory remarks worthy of publication, for the purnose of eliciting public inbury, or engaging the attentioa of writers more competent than myself to establish the truth of the theory, and to put an end to one of the most unwise and injudicious practices ever adopted in an enlightened community, I shall not regret this humble effort to promote the agricultural interest.

WILLIAM CLAGGET.

Portsmouth, N, H. Feb. 6, 1836.

* In England, transplanting full grown trees of all kinds is reduced to science, and conducted upon systematik principles. By the precess, the parks and pleasure grounds of the wealthy are suddenly ornaffientee with eqtensives groves.

From the Southern Agriculturist.

On the Pride of India Tree, as an Article for Fencing.

Dear Sir.—At your request, I furnish you with my observations on the Pride of India Trees, as an article of fencing, in places, where timber is scarce and of indifferent quality. I have, myself, been at some pains in cultivating this highly valuable tree; and bringing it to that state of perfection, which I have heard, it attains, in its native clime. The result of my experience is, that it may be made one of the most useful and profitable fencing and timber trees known to the southern plantation. Our country is becoming, every year, more thickly settled, and its cultivation is pushed on, the vast primeval forests which cover the land, must necessarily disappear before the woodman's axe. The consequence is, that in a few years we will begin to feel the want of the necessary wood and timber for our farming purposes, and see the utility of setting out plantations of the more valuable forest trees. Indeed, I am aware of the existence of this want of timber on some of our sea-islands, and fertile rice lands, and it is particularly to the planters of those sections that I address these remarks.

The best method of cultivating the Pride of India, that I have yet discovered is the following. Run a plough in a straight furrow, and return, ploughing up another furrow to the one made, then take a hoe, and at the distance of eight feet, open a hole about one foot wide along the ridge, which fill with well rotted manure from the stable, or heap of compost, into which drop four or five berries. This should be done in March or April. Cover them lightly and attend the young plants as you would cotton, keeping down grass and weeds, and pulling up the weak and slender shoots, leaving but one of the most healthy and vigorous. Go over this twice in the course of three months, with a plough, turning over the furrow to the plants. The young trees will rapidly grow to the height of six or eight feet. During this time, you must occasionally strip off the leaves and lateral shoots, in order to train the stems to a certain length. Keep them merely straight twigs to which they will naturally tend, until the next spring, when you will direct them to grow as upright as possible, keeping down weeds and grass as in the year before. In this year they will attain the thickness of about twelve inches in circumference and by the next spring the height of twelve or fifteen feet. The growth may, however, be improved by the use of the hoe and manuring. They may now be permitted to put out latteral limbs, suffering the most vigorous to continue, and taking off the weak ones while young, with a pruning knife. This will preserve the quality and beauty of the timber making it fit in fifteen years for all manner of furniture.

The value of the wood cannot be too highly appreciated. It may be sawed into boards from twelve to eighteen inches wide, fit for almost any purpose, or into wainscoting of the most beautiful shades. It is a light sonorous wood, not apt to split, and capable of a very high polish. It is entirely divested of any resinous matter, and thereby fitted to receive the most beautiful varnishes. It possesses powerful vermifugous qualities, and thereby fitted for all furuiture of the bed chamber, as no bugs or any other insect will infest it. The texture or quality of the wood may be improved by being thrown on land of a clay bottom, but will grow well on the loosest sandy loam. It should be raised from the seed in the manner I have described. If transplanted its tap-roots will never grow, and the quality of the wood is much impaired. Besides, it will be more apt to be blown down, being supported only by lateral roots, these taking their sole pabulum from the rich loam on the surface, and giving to the wood a soft spongy texture.

As an article for fence posts, I can safely recommend it as one of the cheapest and most durable. In this latter quality it approximates more nearly to cedar than any wood I know. It may be planted where the fence is intended to be run, and your rails may be nailed to the body of the tree. The superfluous branches will afford an excellent firewood.

The foliage of this tree, affords a wholesome provender for cattle. Horses, cows, hogs, sheep, &c. will eat the leaves greedily. When dried and mixed with hay, I know of no better medicine for cattle of every kind. Such are the vermifugous qualities of the entire tree, that I never fail to give it to my animals every spring. A few leaves given to horses once or twice a week, will afford them a most beautiful coat of hair. A decoction of its rood administered in small doses to children every morning for nine days, will effectually destroy worms in them.

A correspondent of yours has already testified as to the excellence of Pride of India leaves and berries as a manure; and also as a preventive to bugs. To his testimony, I can safely add my own. I have tried both experiments, and have experienced the most beneficial results.

With every wish for your success, Mr. Editor, I subscribe myself

COLBERT.

Contents of the Farmer & Gardener, of May 24.

Notice of the season, long continued drought, &c—application of long manure—remarks on the fate of the memorial of the Agricultural Convention of Virginia—notice of Buckingham—Professor Low on the diseases of Sheep—compost manure—cure for the gapes in chickens—interesting communication on Beet root Sugar—policy and profit of small farms—culture of Corn, management of grass seeds and product of a small farm—Yankee mode of cultivating onions—sales of stock cattle—mode of destroying the cut worm—do. of the wire worm—preparation and management of seed corn—management of cream for butter—receipt for making cold soap—rule for planting fruit trees—advertisements, prices currents, &c.

Contents, of the Southern Agriculturist June, 1836.

Extract from Mr. Calhoun's Speech in the Senate on Incendiary Publications.

TUESDAY, April 12.

The Senate having resumed the considerations of the bill to prohibit the circulation through the mails of incendiary publications—

MR. CALHOUN addressed the Senate.

I am aware, (said Mr. C.) how offensive it is to speak of oneself; but as the Senator from Georgia on my right (Mr. King) has thought proper to impute to me improper motives, I feel myself compelled, in self-defence, to state the reasons which have governed my course in reference to the subject now under consideration. The Senator is greatly mistaken in supposing that I was governed by hostility to Gen. Jackson. So far is that from being the fact, that I came here at the commencement of the Session with fixed and settled principles on the subject now under discussion, and which, in pursuing the course that the Senator condemns, I have but attempted to carry into effect.

As soon as the subject of abolition began to agitate the South last summer, in consequence of the transmission of incendiary publications through the mail, I saw at once that it would force itself on the notice of Congress at the present session; and that it involved questions of great delicacy and difficulty. I immediately turned my attention in consequence to the subject, and after due reflection arrived at the conclusion that Congress should exercise no direct power over it, and that, if it acted at all, the only mode in which it could act, consistently with the Constitution and the rights and safety of the slaveholding States, would be in the manner proposed by this bill. I also saw that there was no inconsiderable danger in the excited state of the feelings of the South; that the power, however dangerous and unconstitutional, might be thoughtlessly yielded to Congress, knowing full well how apt the weak and timid are, in a state of excitement and alarm, to seek temporary protection in any quarter, regardless of after consequences, and how ready the artful and designing ever are to seize on such occasions to extend and perpetrate their power.

With these impressions I arrived here at the beginning of the session. The President's message was not calculated to remove my apprehensions. He assumed for Congress direct power over the subject, and that on the broadest, most unqualified, and dangerous principles. Knowing the influence of his name, by reason of his great patronage and the rigid discipline of party, with a large portion of the country, who had scarcely any other standard of constitution, politics, and morals, I saw the full extent of the danger of having these dangerous principles reduced to practice, and I determined at once to use every effort to prevent it. The Senator from Georgia will, of course, understand that I do not include him in this subservient portion of his party. So far from it, I have always considered him as one of the most independent. It has been our fortune to concur in opinion in relation to most of the important measures which have been agitated since he became a member of this body, two years ago, at the commencement of the session, during which the deposite question was agitated. On that important question, if I mistake not, the Senator, and myself concurred in opinion, at least as to its inexpediency, and the dangerous consequences to which it would probably lead. If my memory serves me, we also agreed in opinion of the connected subject of the currency, which was then incidentally discussed. We agreed too, on the question of raising the value of gold to its present standard, and in opposition to the bill for the distribution of the proceeds of the public lands, introduced by the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Clay.) In recurring to the events of that interesting session, I can remem-